The first state state was made upon in the part of the state of the st

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hirotane OKUMURA

Group Art Unit:

Serial No.:

Examiner:

Filed: December 20, 2000

For:

ELECTRONIC BUYER-SELLER INTERMEDIATION SERVICE AND

PRICE DETERMINATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee for and examination of the above-identified application, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 9, line 1, delete "or8".

Claim 12, line 1, delete "or 11".

Claim 13, line 1, change "one of Claims 10, 11 and 12" to --claim 10--.

Claim 14, line 1, change "one of Claims 10, 11, 12 and 13" to --claim 10--.

Claim 16, line 1, change "one of Claims 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15" to --claim 10--.

Claim 23, line 1, delete "or 22".

And the test that the test the test the test that the test that the test the test that the test that the test the test that the test the test that the test that the test that the test the test that the test that the test that the test the test that the test the test the test the test that the test the te

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to further prosecution of this application by placing same in better form, including eliminating all multiple dependencies from the claims. Accordingly, entry of the Preliminary Amendment and favorable examination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By:

H. J. staas

Registration No. 22,010

700 Eleventh Street, N.W.

Suite 500

Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: (202) 434-1500 Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

Date: December 20, 2000